

Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, IS, KE
SUBJ: ISRAELI-KENYAN RELATIONS

REF: NAIROBI 8878

1. ZEEV DOVER, CHIEF OF ISRAELI INTERESTS SECTION IN NAIROBI, TOLD CHARGE OCTOBER 13 THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND KENYA CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN, BUT THAT ISRAEL HAS OUT OF DEFERENCE TO KENYAN SENSITIVITIES RE ENTEBBE RAID STOPPED PRESSING FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WHILE MAINTAINING THAT ISRAELI MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO KENYA WILL REMAIN QUANTITATIVELY MODEST, HE SAID ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD RECENTLY MADE DECISION TO PROVIDE LIBERAL FINANCING FOR THIS ASSISTANCE. HE DECLINED TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT EITHER OVERALL MAGNITUDE OF ISRAELI ASSISTANCE OR FINANCIAL TERMS ON WHICH IT IS BEING EXTENDED.

2. DOVER SAID THAT SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RETURN TO KENYA IN AUGUST GOK OFFICIALS HAD AGAIN (PARA 5 OF REFTL) REITERATED THAT PRESIDENT KENYATTA WOULD EXPECT FAVORABLE ISRAELI RESPONSE IF HE WERE TO REQUEST MILITARY SUPPORT IN EVENT OF EXTERNAL ATTACK ON OR SERIOUS MILITARY THREAT TO KENYA. WHILE DOVER SAID THAT NO GOI DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON THIS POSSIBILITY, HE FELT CERTAIN THAT ISRAELI CABINET WOULD CONSIDER ANY SUCH KENYAN REQUEST EXPEDITIOUSLY AND, IF SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTED, WOULD BE PROMPTLY RESPONSIVE, AS ISRAEL CONSIDERS

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KENYA TO BE "AN AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTICULARLY DESERVING OF

SUPPORT." HE GAVE NO EXAMPLES OF TYPE OF ISRAELI MILITARY
SUPPORT WHICH MIGHT BE PROVIDED, BUT NOTED THAT GOK HAD
BEEN VERY IMPRESSED BY ISRAELI ABILITY TO PROJECT MILITARY
POWER IN CASE OF ENTEBBE RAID AND TO DELIVER BADLY-NEEDED
MILITARY LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO KENYA DURING RECENT CRISIS WITH
UGANDA.
LINDSTROM

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